



News Release

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CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH WARNS CONSUMERS NOT TO EAT INDY MINI DEDOS SPICY AND SOUR CANDY IMPORTED FROM MEXICO

SACRAMENTO – Dr. Mark Horton, director of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), today warned consumers not to eat INDY Mini Dedos Spicy and Sour candy imported from Mexico after tests by CDPH found levels of lead that could cause health problems. Eating lead-contaminated candy is particularly harmful to infants, young children and pregnant women.

“Infants, young children and pregnant women are especially vulnerable to lead exposure,” Horton said. “Both short- and long-term exposure can be toxic. Today’s warning is part of our ongoing efforts to ensure the safety of foods sold in California.”

INDY Mini Dedos candy is distributed by T. J. Candy of Montebello, which has initiated a voluntary recall of the product. CDPH is in the process of identifying other California distributors.

Consumers in possession of INDY Mini Dedos Spicy and Sour candy should not consume the candy and should discard it. Pregnant women and parents of children who may have consumed INDY Mini Dedos Spicy and Sour candy should consult their physician or health care provider to determine if medical testing is needed.

INDY Mini Dedos Spicy and Sour candy is a small, reddish brown candy, weighing approximately eight grams and packaged in a clear plastic bag containing 50 individually wrapped pieces of candy. The bulk wrapper contains a circular yellow sticker with the name “Indy MINI Dedos Dulce Acidulado y Picosito” printed in the center of the label. The individual candy wrappers are printed with the name “INDY MINI Dedos” in large yellow letters on a pinkish background and contain a picture of a brown fox wearing a brown hat. Near the bottom of the label, the words “Dulce Acidulado y Picosito Spicy and Sour Candy” are printed in yellow.

Recent analysis of these candies by CDPH determined that INDY Mini Dedos Spicy and Sour candy contained lead levels as high as 0.13 parts per million (ppm). California considers candies with lead levels in excess of 0.10 ppm to be contaminated. This level is consistent with the guidance issued by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in November 2006 on the recommended lead level of 0.10 ppm in candy products likely to be consumed by children.

For more information about lead poisoning, consumers are advised to contact their local childhood lead poisoning prevention program or public health department. Additional information and a list of local childhood lead prevention programs is available at <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/healthinfo/discond/Pages/CLPPBChildrenAtRisk.aspx>

Consumers who find INDY Mini Dedos Spicy and Sour candy for sale are encouraged to call the CDPH Complaint Hotline at 1-800-495-3232.

Photos of these candies are available at www.cdph.ca.gov.

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